

# NEW SOUTH WALES.

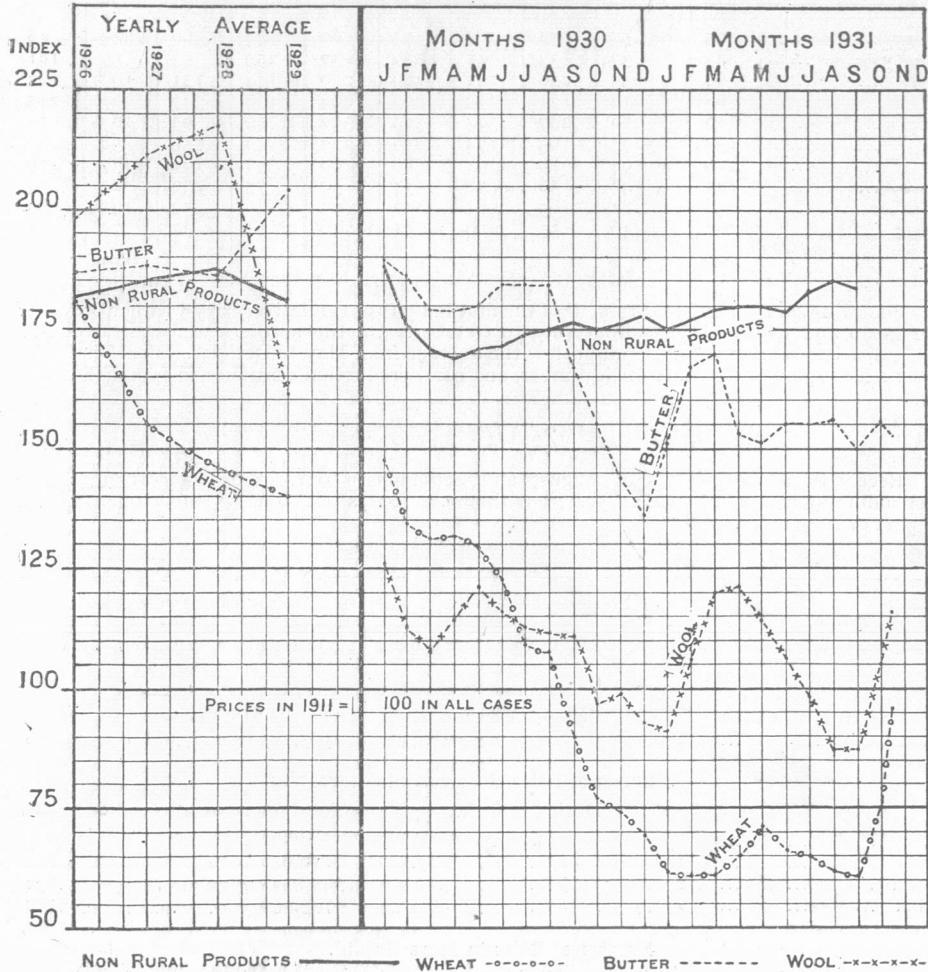
## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 7. November 25, 1931.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

### INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 23 on page II of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

\*62971-A

[Price, 3d.]

## SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

### 1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.

(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.		Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts.				
			1931.				1931.				
	1930.	1931.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	
January ...	...	75	55	52	67	73	69	44	60	44	48
February ...	...	43	37	33	41	36	37	255	63	59	181
March ...	...	64	255	250	241	286	270	124	131	104	123
April ...	...	68	210	171	213	207	204	164	347	201	215
May ...	...	90	280	247	305	329	312	59	93	107	74
June ...	...	154	193	193	174	256	227	42	59	50	47
July ...	...	119	94	89	94	88	90	52	102	137	76
August ...	...	121	43	56	38	54	50	73	30	13	54
September ...	...	46	82	65	81	100	91	29	53	145	50
October ...	...	207	46	35	39	51	46	51	37	73	51

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; T.—Total, New South Wales.

Following on the abundant rainfall of the first half of 1931, relatively dry weather prevailed in the sheep and wheat districts from July to October. On the northern and central coastal dairying districts rainfall was generally below the average from May to October. Beneficial rains fell over a large part of the State in November, and rural production continues to approach record levels.

### 2. WOOL.

Receipts in the months of August and September, 1931, were larger than for the corresponding months of any recent year, but the increase was not so heavy in October and the early part of November.

#### SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold.		
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Four months ended 31st October ...	260,030	266,435	374,326	£ 3,793,713	£ 2,987,682	£ 3,994,088

#### Number of Bales Received into Store.

##### During Month.

##### Total for Season to end of Month.

July ...	...	...	34,362	24,787	31,672	34,362	24,787	31,672
August ...	...	...	144,274	131,860	203,140	178,636	156,647	234,812
September ...	...	...	283,889	308,429	332,320	462,525	465,076	567,132
October ...	...	...	291,425	254,369	291,250	753,950	719,445	858,382

#### Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

In store, 31st October ...	501,554	463,880	499,748	...	...	...
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The course of wool prices is shown in Table 23. The volume of sales and the number of bales received into store in the four months ended October, 1931, is substantially greater than in any of the preceding five years. The average weight per bale, however, is 9 lb. less than in the year of record production (1926-27.).

### 3. WHEAT.

The Director of Marketing estimates that, on current indications and allowing for the benefit of rains in the early part of November, the yield of wheat for 1931-32 in New South Wales will exceed 50,000,000 bushels. The area sown with wheat this season is 3,944,700 acres, inclusive of the area to be cut for hay and green fodder.

#### WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Period.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
August (value) ...	£193,846	£296,200	£190,422
September (value) ...	163,603	229,313	134,243
October (value) ...	73,179	376,570	168,754
Totals for eleven months ended 31st October—			
Value ...	£5,823,924	£2,052,473	£4,724,809
Quantity ...	24,541,475	10,431,557	41,286,660

The exports for the eleven months ended 31st October, 1931, include 32,687,477 bushels of grain and 180,583 tons of flour.

Allowing for carry-over from last season (5,159,000 bushels) and for wheat despatched interstate, the surplus exportable oversea direct from New South Wales in the season ending 30th November, 1931, is in the vicinity of 48,000,000 bushels (wheat and flour), so that the exportable surplus remaining at 31st October, 1931, was equivalent to about 6,700,000 bushels. At 31st October, 1931, 3,750,000 bushels of wheat grain were stacked in railway yards or stored in silos; as at 14th November, 1931, the quantity so stacked was 2,850,000 bushels.

### 4. BUTTER.

The production of butter (in factories) in New South Wales for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1931, was 8,477,634 lb. (or 8.4 per cent.) greater than in 1929-30. The production for September quarter, 1931, was 21,189,425 lb., as compared with 17,533,116 lb. for September quarter, 1930, an increase of 3,656,309 lb., or 20.9 per cent.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported oversea (New South Wales).			
	1930.	1931.	Quantity.	1930.	1931.	Value.
Year ended June 30th ...	100,814	109,292	Thousand lb.	19,917	31,389	£1,443,851*
July ...	4,981	6,590		317	1,245	23,939
August ...	5,308	6,771		379	1,295	27,207
September ...	7,245	7,829		638	2,117	37,396
October ...	9,914	...		2,114	2,971	113,799
						£1,698,835*
						67,366
						68,471
						113,435
						167,502

\* Including ships' stores.

The production for each of the months, April to September, 1931, was the largest recorded for those months in New South Wales, and exports have been maintained at an unusually high level.

## 5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports:—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from N.S.W.†
	1928.	1930.	1931.	1931.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
June ...	515,271	366,499	409,901	235,100
July ...	585,437	509,511	410,852	213,700
August ...	568,620	391,761	312,314	187,300
September ...	428,865	416,914	368,864	198,600
October ...	498,005	421,232	340,000*	182,000*
Ten months ended 31st October ...	5,166,895	.....	3,523,140*	1,955,839*

\* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Oversea and Interstate.

‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

## 6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry:—

Month.	Factory Sales.		Employees.		Weekly Salaries and Wages.	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
	Thousand £	Thousand £	Hundreds.	Hundreds.	Hundred £	Hundred £
January ...	2,553	1,982	180	135	776	542
February ...	2,630	1,993	179	140	769	535
March ...	2,607	1,977	174	142	732	539
April ...	2,351	1,807	167	140	697	531
May ...	2,384	1,929	162	137	667	526
June ...	2,130	1,879	159	137	638	506
July ...	2,312	1,986	153	135	620	516
August ...	2,071	1,845	152	136	598	514
September ...	2,131	1,889	152	140	566	519

The figures for September, 1931, indicate a slight improvement as compared with August.

## 7. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

### PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Total Value for Nine Months.			Suburbs. (Month of October).		Country Municipalities. (September Quarter.)	
	City.†	Suburbs.	Country.‡	No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.
1929 ...	£*	£	£	635	£697,673	1,134	£1,114,106
1930 ...	£*	£2,139,498	£1,653,012	81	£88,276	426	£283,844
1931 ...	£665,870	£386,682	£499,485	29	£26,025	194	£91,023

\* Not available.

† New buildings and additions.

Metropolitan Area.

‡ Municipalities and seven Shires adjoining

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings show in advance the trend in the building industry. Comparative figures for previous months, quarters and years, are shown on page 21 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for September Quarter, 1931.

## SECTION B.—TRADE.

### 8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of October.			Four Months ended 31st October.		
	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1929 ...	4,986,230	3,313,086	(—) 1,673,144	22,253,733	9,818,757	(—) 12,434,976
1930 ...	2,588,879	3,028,564	439,685	11,442,847	8,899,553	(—) 2,543,294
1931‡ ...	1,625,832	3,723,323	§ 2,097,491	6,082,008	9,152,472	§ 3,070,464

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

§ See notes below.

‡ Subject to revision.

\* Excluding gold specie valued at £1,005,000 in September, 1929, and £299,484 in October, 1931, and of negligible amount in other periods shown.

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of exports marked § above is consequently overstated. In August there was an increase of imports and a decrease in exports, but in September and October imports were lower while exports increased.

### 9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Recorded Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.	Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.
1930.			Million £	1931.			Million £
October ...	5.07	5.96	11.03	April ...	5.27	6.10	11.37
November ...	5.26	5.74	11.00	May ...	5.16	4.65	9.81
December ...	5.47	6.30	11.77	June ...	5.64	5.07	10.71
1931.				July ...	4.63	5.02	9.65
January ...	4.20	5.13	9.33	August ...	4.68	4.42	9.10
February ...	4.56	5.15	9.71	September ...	4.81	5.64	10.45
March ...	4.82	4.82	9.64				

The amounts of sales of taxable goods represent the approximate trend of wholesale trade in local and imported secondary products. Sales of taxable goods in June were probably influenced by anticipations of the increased rate of tax, which was imposed on 11th July.

### RETAIL TRADE.

Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of retail business.

## SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

### 10. RAILWAYS.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were :—

	Month of September.			Three months ended 30th September.		
	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
1929 ...	£ 1,615,633	£ 1,228,304	£ 387,329	£ 4,776,414	£ 3,857,772	£ 918,642
1930 ...	£ 1,498,827	£ 1,100,071	£ 398,756	£ 3,986,094	£ 3,265,849	£ 720,245
1931 ...	£ 1,337,721	£ 1,025,528	£ 312,193	£ 3,716,858	£ 3,058,328	£ 658,530

\* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

	Month of September.		Three months ended 30th September.	
	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
1929 ...	thousands. 148,406	thousands. 13,367	thousands. 446,949	thousands. 38,401
1930 ...	... 137,172	... 11,367	... 368,835	... 33,185
1931 ...	... 121,957	... 10,007	... 346,331	... 29,826

\* Goods (including wayleave) and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

For the year ended 30th June, 1931, the decrease in passenger mileage was 19·3 per cent. and in passenger journeys 14·2 per cent., as compared with 1929-30.

### 11. TRAMWAYS.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

	Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.
Twelve months ended 30th June, 1931 ...	£ 2,894,285	(—) 11,060	253,243,078	£ 164,186	(—) 51,864	£ 13,103,723
July ...	221,392	7,276	19,624,627§	£ 12,543	(—) 3,335	£ 1,156,986§
August ...	209,959	(—) 6,387	18,607,992§	£ 12,299	(—) 3,473	£ 1,134,479§
September ...	209,059	7,688	18,527,948	£ 12,243	(—) 5,693	£ 1,129,314
October ...	226,287	9,515	20,023,810	£ 14,663	(—) 1,044	£ 1,381,753

\* Interest and sinking fund on loan capital is not included as working expenses. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings.

§ Revised.

Corresponding figures for October, 1930, were.—Metropolitan—Earnings £251,351, Passengers 22,016,492. Newcastle—Earnings £18,110, Passengers 1,062,203.

## 12. MOTOR OMNIBUS TRAFFIC.

### METROPOLITAN TRAFFIC AREA.

Year ended 30th June.	Revenue.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.	Passengers carried.
1929 ... ... ... ... ...	£ 1,446,876	£ 153,439	Thousands. 89,845
1930 ... ... ... ... ...	£ 1,540,455	£ 142,335	94,482
Six months ended 31st Dec., 1930	709,382	41,354	49,697
Three months ended 31st March, 1931	331,126	(-) 18,452	22,578

The number of passengers carried in the three months ended 31st March, 1931, was 22,577,832 as compared with 24,199,797 in the corresponding quarter of 1930, and 23,091,652 in March quarter, 1929.

## 13. MOTOR VEHICLES.

### NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class:	30th June—			31st August, 1931.	30th Sept., 1931.	31st October, 1931.
	1929.	1930.	1931.			
Cars ... ...	162,298	169,495	154,096	151,117	148,874	147,331
Lorries and Vans ...	41,689	45,309	41,788	40,749	40,134	39,834
Cycles ... ...	30,937	29,410	25,453	24,770	24,330	24,047

### Decrease.

	Cars.	Lorries, and Vans.	Cycles.
Three months ended 31st July, 1931 ...	4,820	1,566	983
" " 31st October, 1931 ...	4,429	1,282	908

The number of new cars registered during the four weeks ending on the first Tuesday in November, 1931, was 219, compared with 564 and 1,840 in the corresponding periods of 1930 and 1929 respectively.

## SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

### 14. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

September Quarter		Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Advances over Deposits, &c.
1929	... ... ...	thousand £ 131,686	thousand £ 148,575	thousand £ 16,889
1930	... ... ...	127,140	148,101	20,961
1931	... ... ...	118,453	134,964	16,511

### 15. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits  
and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

September Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
1929	thousand £ 63,399	thousand £ 43,361	thousand £ 106,760	thousand £ 107,948	thousand £ 1,188	per cent. 101.1
1930	... 66,101	37,471	103,572	105,156	1,584	101.5
1931	... 60,686	33,424	94,110	95,027	917	101.0

### 16. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1929.	1930.	1931.*	Amount—Million £			Index Numbers.		
							January	February	March	April	May	June
January ...	... ...	86.2	78.2	67.4	1038	990	812					
February ...	... ...	88.1	75.5	63.8	1047	958	808					
March ...	... ...	89.8	83.7	69.9	1058	950	805					
April ...	... ...	89.7	68.6	62.4	1093	926	798					
May ...	... ...	89.7	76.7	54.0	1087	920	751					
June ...	... ...	84.8	71.7	57.1	1089	893	717					
July ...	... ...	88.8	73.7	48.9	1061	895	645					
August ...	... ...	84.1	58.4	45.5	1078	850	634					
September ...	... ...	78.7	61.7	54.6	1073	825	637					
October ...	... ...	89.1	71.5	56.0	1057	802	688					

\* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

Inter-bank clearings are regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the general volume of business transactions provided they are considered in conjunction with changes in price levels.

The index represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926-1930. This average is represented by 1,000 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have been eliminated. The trend has been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average.

No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels.

## 17. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

		Month of October.		Ten months ended 31st October.	
		Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
		£	£	£	£
1930	...	1,589,772	2,789,643	23,353,296†	30,581,143
1931	...	1,719,119	676,743	12,162,218	17,003,986

† Approximate.

The amount of considerations of sales is approximately 52 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 52 per cent. of the corresponding figures for last year. This decrease is partly due to a lower level of values.

## 18. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

		Month of October.			Ten months ended 31st October.		
		Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
		£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	...	180,564	220,333	252,123	4,512,465	3,112,223	2,836,134
1931	...	175,124	86,100	103,007	5,080,425	3,289,038	2,292,599

Despite the lower level of values the amounts involved in liens (except on livestock) to date are greater in 1931 than 1930. The total is £10,662,062 for the first ten months of 1931 compared with £10,460,822 for the same period last year.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow:—

Ten months ended 31st October.	Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
			Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1930 ...	13,047	8,845,337	5,680,874	82,502	17,152
1931 ...	11,784	10,405,984	8,216,836	106,063	22,992

\* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

The number of crop liens showed an increase in the first three months of 1931 as compared with 1930, followed by decreases in each succeeding month.

## 19. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.	Month of October.		Ten months ended 31st October.	
	Number.	Liabilities.*	Number.	Liabilities.*
1930	148	£ 279,282	1,102	£ 2,197,560
1931	80	263,247	1,148	2,529,515

\* Gross liabilities before deducting assets.

The number of bankruptcies since August, 1931, has been substantially less than for the same months of 1930, though the gross liabilities have been slightly greater.

(W.A.S.) COMMONWEALTH STATISTICS, JUNE 1931

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

20. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Month (a)—			Middle of Quarter ended—	
	July.	August.	September.	30th June (b).	30th September (b).
				No.	No.
1929	20,000	29,000	30,000	10·0	12·4
1930	65,000	60,000	75,000	21·0	23·3
1931	125,000	125,000	115,000	30·7	31·6

(a) Estimate as at end of month by Director of State Labour Exchange—representing approximate total number unemployed. (b) Estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

21. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and the group averages are the means of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. It represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

Month.	<sup>23</sup> Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	<sup>10</sup> Retail Companies.	<sup>8</sup> Public Utility Companies.	<sup>5</sup> Pastoral and Finance Companies.	<sup>5</sup> Insurance Companies.	Total * Companies 75.	<sup>34</sup> Active Shares included in foregoing.
1931.							
January ...	81·2	66·7	90·8	60·2	134·6	79·2	85·3
February ...	80·8	66·1	90·0	61·2	127·5	77·8	84·8
March ...	82·9	71·5	88·9	80·7	132·1	81·5	90·2
April ...	82·9	71·3	89·1	81·5	137·6	82·8	90·7
May ...	81·7	67·9	86·7	79·8	126·8	80·4	88·5
June ...	78·2	66·5	89·4	78·0	120·0	77·9	85·4
July ...	77·3	65·9	90·8	79·3	119·0	77·4	83·5
August ...	76·1	62·9	89·3	77·6	118·3	75·3	80·6
September†	72·3	60·3	87·9	75·2	121·3	72·4	77·2
October‡ ...	77·4	64·3	90·6	84·8	129·8	76·8	84·2

\* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies.

† Revised.

‡ Subject to revision.

All classes of stocks, except utilities, showed (in total) some improvement between February and April, followed by recessions, with some downward fluctuations until September, toward the end of which month a sharp recovery occurred, which continued throughout October and eased in the first part of November.

## 22. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).  
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.
January	1,000	1,031	1,013	956
February	1,000	1,044	981	974
March	1,000	1,018	1,011	971
April	1,000	1,036	1,004	960
May	1,000	1,055	1,000	944
June	1,000	1,035	999	966
July	1,000	1,052	987	960
August	1,000	1,061	998	940
September	1,000	1,085	979	936
October	1,000	1,093	972	934
Average (10 months)	1,000	1,051	994	954

## 23. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural. <sup>§</sup>	All Commodities.
1911* ...	100	100	100	100	100
1920* ...	162	140	204	181	186
1930—September	111	90	167	176	164
October	97	77	155	175	158
November	99	74	144	176	157
December	93	69	136	178	153
1931—January	91	62	151	175	154
February	106	61	167	177	154
March	120	61	170	179	157
April	121	65	153	180	158
May	114	71	151	180	156
June	106	66	155	179	155
July	98	65	155	183	155
August	88	62	156	185	154
September	88	61	150	184	154
October	105	75	156	183 <sup>†</sup>	154 <sup>†</sup>

\* Average for year.

† Subject to revision.

§ Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on page 488 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

The marked disparity between the relative price levels of the principal rural products and the non-rural group has been a prominent feature of price movements since the early part of last year. During October the prices of wool and wheat recovered from the low level of September. The rise continued into November, but there was some recession in the middle of the month.

Prices of non-rural products in October, 1931, were 4 per cent. above the average of the latter half of 1930. The marked rise in July, 1931, is largely due to Sales Tax which has been added to the prices of commodities affected.

## 24. WORLD PRICE LEVELS.

In the five months ended May, 1931, the "Economist" index of wholesale prices for Great Britain fell by 7.4 per cent., and the Irving Fisher Index for the United States by 10.3 per cent. In the next three months (ended August, 1931) the decline was 2 per cent. and 2.6 per cent. respectively. On 21st September the gold standard was suspended in England. The "Economist" index for September was 65.3 as compared with 62.3 in August, and 66.8 in October. The Irving Fisher Index for the United States was 68.1 in the middle of October as compared with 68.9 a month previously.

## 25. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange, English Currency).

Date.	Silver (Standard).	Lead.	Spelter.	Tin (Standard).	Copper (Standard).
	per oz.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.	per ton.
1931.	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
March	1 152	13 4 10	12 8 8	121 18 5	44 17 2
April	1 112	12 9 10	11 11 11	112 16 9	42 14 8
May	1 085	11 12 8	10 13 7	104 8 0	38 18 10
June	1 071	11 15 4	11 10 2	105 0 8	35 17 6
July	1 119	12 16 4	12 10 10	111 11 2	34 9 2
August	1 081	11 19 4	11 14 8	114 19 1	32 12 3
September	1 210	11 19 7	11 16 4	117 17 10	31 11 1
October	1 515	13 5 0	12 19 7	127 0 10	35 0 1
November (1st to 13th)	1 834	14 7 4	13 14 1	130 18 6	37 1 10

With the depreciation of the English pound as from 21st September prices rose in terms of English currency. During the first half of October prices showed little variation, but in the latter half of that month and in the first half of November there was a sustained rise.

## 26. SUMMARY.

The following table provides some indication of trends in 1931 in respect of the principal activities for which it is possible to indicate general trends by monthly figures:—

Refer to Table No.	16	9	6	5	7	10	22	11
Month, 1931.	Index of Bank Clearings.	Value of Goods sold at Wholesale.	Value of Goods sold by certain Factories.	Quantity of Coal Hauled by Railways.	Value of City and Suburban Building Permits. (d).	Number of Passengers Journeys on Railways.	Index of Quantity of Gas and Electricity Consumed.	Tramway Revenue.
		£ (b)	£ (b)	tons (a)	£ (a)	(c)		£(a)
January	812	933	198	296	107	101	956	284
February	808	971	199	337	143	98	974	232
March	805	964	198	367	464	107	971	254
April	798	1,137	187	282	255	100	960	249
May	751	981	193	399	82	102	944	246
June	717	1,071	188	410	78	106	966	240
July	645	965	199	411	84	97	960	234
August	634	910	185	312	88	101	940	222
September	637	1,045	189	368	42	100	936	221
October	688	...	...	340	45	...	934	241

(a) Thousands. (b) Ten thousands. (c) Hundred thousands. (d) New buildings and additions.

The general position in regard to primary industries might be gauged by reference to tables 1 to 4, and to the prices shown in the graph on page 1, and in table 23.

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Acknowledgment is made of the ready help given by numerous private organisations and businesses, and by various Government departments in providing data for tables contained in this summary.

The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

25th November, 1931.